

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2007

### ***Law Enforcement Reminds All St. Patrick's Day Partiers Not to Press Their Luck with Indiana's DUI Laws***

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving announced Monday that there will be a strong push to remind all St. Patrick's Day partiers that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*. State and local law enforcement agencies will increase patrols statewide and will be on high alert specifically looking for impaired drivers.

Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. In 2006, 46 percent of drivers who were fatally killed in motor vehicle crashes had a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01 or greater. Of those killed, 88 percent were over the legal limit (0.08).

"This year St. Patrick's Day poses an even greater risk for impaired driving incidents to occur because it falls on a Saturday," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

For a safe St. Patrick's Day remember:

- Plan ahead: Whenever you plan to consume alcohol, designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
- If you spot a drunk driver, call 911;
- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired or ride with someone who is, take their keys and/or help them make alternate arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

In an effort to publicly reinforce the dangers of impaired driving, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute will host a press conference in cooperation with the Eastside Collision Center, Budget Car Rental, the Indiana State Police, and the Marion County Traffic Safety Partnership. The press conference will take place on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the Eastside Collision Center beginning at 11:00 a.m. A Designated Driver program sponsored by the Eastside Collision Center and Budget Car Rental will be available to those needing a ride on St. Patrick's Day, by reservation only. To make a reservation, please contact the Eastside Collision Center at (317) 899-5307.

Governor's Council on  
Impaired and Dangerous Driving



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“Whether you are meeting a few friends at the local pub or attending a big party, if you plan to revel in the spirit of the day, don’t get behind the wheel and drive,” added Ryan Klitzsch, Traffic Safety division director of ICJI.

*The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.*

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